**HIV/AIDS: a Focus on Black Women in the Detroit Metropolitan Area (DMA)**

Data supplied by the Michigan Department of Community Health HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program

For more info see [www.michigan.gov/mdch](http://www.michigan.gov/mdch) and go to statistics, communicable diseases

**HOW MANY CASES?** MDCH estimates that there are 10,510 people living with HIV/AIDS in the DMA (Lapeer, Oakland, Macomb, Monroe, St. Clair and Wayne Counties). The DMA has more cases (roughly two-thirds of all Michigan cases) than expected when compared with the percent of people living in this area (45% of the Michigan population). Just under two-thirds of the 10,510 DMA cases are found within the City of Detroit.

![Graph showing percentage of DMA cases by county](image)

- The rate of HIV infection among blacks is 705 per 100,000 population, almost eight times higher than the rate among whites. MDCH estimates that as many as one out of 90 black males and one out of 260 black females may be HIV-infected.
- A black female is 2.3 times more likely to be HIV positive than a white male.
- In comparison, the rate of HIV infection among whites is 92 per 100,000 population. MDCH estimates that as many as one out of 600 white males and one out of 4,650 white females may be HIV infected.

**NEW CASES** Each year roughly 600 individuals in the DMA become infected. This number has been stable for the past 5 years and there does not seem to be a notable increase in any particular race/sex group.

![Graph showing number of new diagnoses by race/sex](image)

- In 2004 24% of all new HIV diagnoses were black women (n=155) and black women accounted for 88% of new HIV diagnoses among women.

**HOW DO PEOPLE BECOME INFECTED?** In the DMA most people with HIV are men who acquired their infection by having sex with other men (MSM). The use of injecting drugs (IDU) and heterosexual sex also infected large numbers of individuals. In the last several years the overall proportion of infections attributable to MSM rose relative to other risk behaviors.

![Graph showing reported persons by risk](image)

HRHs or high risk heterosexual sex is defined as heterosexual sex with a person who is an IDU, behaviorally bisexual man, blood recipient known to be HIV+ and/or HIV+ individual with no known risk for HIV.
HOW ARE BLACK MEN AND WOMEN BECOMING INFECTED?

Black Females Living with HIV/AIDS in the Detroit Metro Area by Expanded Mode of Transmission (N = 1,637)

Unk: Other 6%
HRH Partner IDU 11%
HRH Partner Bisexual 2%
HRH Partner Blood Recipient <1%
IDU w/ HRH 15%
IDU w/out HRH 12%
Perinatal 3%
Blood Recipient 1%
Unk: Presumed Hetero 26%
Black women in the DMA overwhelmingly acquire HIV from heterosexual sex

Black Males Living with HIV/AIDS in the Detroit Metro Area by Expanded Mode of Transmission (N = 3,990)

Unk: Presumed Hetero 13%
HRH 6%
MSM 55%
IDU 14%
MSM/IDU 6%
Perinatal 1%
Blood Recipient <1%

WHO IS DYING OF HIV/AIDS? With widespread use of effective antiretroviral therapy since 1995, the HIV-related mortality has dropped for all 4 major race/sex groups. In the early years of treatment was available, 1995-1998, white men, white women and black men all saw sharp declines in death rates (72%, 83%, and 55% respectively) while Black women experienced a 35% decline. There have also been sizable declines in deaths over the last several years (2000-2004) among white women (50% decrease) and black men (40% decrease), yet black women have only seen a slight decrease in HIV-related death rates in these recent years (8% decrease).

CURRENT AGES OF BLACK WOMEN WITH HIV/AIDS: The figure below shows the current age of black females living with HIV/AIDS in the DMA.

**Current age of Black Females living with HIV/AIDS in the Detroit Metro Area, 1/1/06**

**HIV Related Mortality by Race/Sex in the Detroit Metro Area, 1989-2004**